

OFFICERS CAREER NOTES



EDITOR'S NOTE: *Although the Defense Switched Network (DSN) replaced the old Automatic Voice Network (AUTOVON) in April 1990, many of us (INFANTRY included) have continued using the familiar AUTOVON to designate those telephone numbers. From now on, we will use DSN instead.*

CALLING INFANTRY BRANCH

On a perfect day, we have only ten assignment officers to help the more than 10,000 officers assigned in the Infantry. As a result, we all understand how hard it is for those of you in the field to get through and talk to a specific assignment officer.

Although you do need to discuss assignment actions directly with your assignment officer, in many cases, you can call the same number and talk with the civilian technicians instead. This will save you time and frustration. (An Infantry Branch telephone directory can be found elsewhere in these notes.) These civilian staff members can provide valuable assistance in the following areas: Status of requests for orders, officer record brief corrections, school dates, officer evaluation report profile data, and status of latest photo.

If the telephone number for your assignment team is busy, calling another team's number may waste time and still not get your question answered. If necessary, call the Branch common number—DSN 221-0207 or commercial (703) 325-0207. If the technician cannot help and your assignment officer is not available, leave a message along with the subject of your call and both your DSN and commercial telephone numbers. If assigned overseas, include your commercial duty and home numbers whenever you call. It is often

difficult for us to call outside the continental United States on DSN or FTS (the Federal Telecommunications System).

Before calling Infantry Branch, try to get as many questions as possible answered through your chain of command, your local military personnel office, or reliable publications. But call when you need us, and we will do our best to help.

PROFESSORS OF MILITARY SCIENCE

The annual ROTC Professor of Military Science (PMS) board normally meets in October and November each year. Although these positions are not equivalent to Command Designated Position List (CDPL) battalion command, they are commands. And they are extremely important, because they train and develop the Army's largest accession pool of officers.

Nominees must be in the rank of lieutenant colonel or major; be qualified at Military Education Level (MEL) 4; and have masters' degrees. Recent troop experience is also desirable.

Interested officers should contact MAJ Matt McCarthy at DSN 221-5510/0207 or commercial (703) 325-5510/0207.

RECRUITING BATTALION COMMAND

The next U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) battalion command selection board is tentatively scheduled to convene in September 1991. The Board will select commanders to fill vacancies that will occur between February and July 1992. In the near future, USAREC will publish a list of

the specific battalion slots that will be filled.

Infantry Branch will have requirements both for former battalion commanders and for those who have not yet commanded. In the past, Infantrymen have fared well in the selection rates and in being slated according to their individual preferences.

Interested officers should contact MAJ Frank Roberts, DSN 221-5510 or commercial (703) 325-5510.

BRANCH QUALIFICATION FOR MAJORS

After the scheduled deactivation of units in Europe and of the 2d Armored Division at Fort Hood, there will be 84 TOE infantry battalions. That number provides a total of 168 positions that will branch qualify majors (battalion S-3s and executive officers).

The specific number of S-3 positions available at brigade level is hard to determine, since it is unknown how many heavy brigade S-3 positions will be filled by Armor officers. A safe assumption, however, would be 28. Therefore, the number of branch qualifying TOE positions available for majors will be 196.

An officer is selected for promotion to major at his nine-year mark. (The board normally meets in September and the results are released in November or December.) His actual promotion time is near the 12-year mark. A major is selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel at his 16-year mark, with promotion at 17.6 years. Therefore, a major's basic window of opportunity for branch qualification is between 12 and 16 years. Given approximately 240, 320, 340, and 360 in the Year Groups 1975 to 1978, 1,260 majors in Infantry branch will be affected.

Branch qualification requires 12 months in a position. If each major serves only 12 months, 196 officers per year can attain branch qualification, or 784 during a four-year period. That will allow a branch qualification rate of only 62 percent.

In almost every case, however, a brigade S-3 is selected from its available battalion S-3s or XO's, thereby reducing the available branch qualification jobs by 28 per year, or 112 over four years. The success rate then drops to 53 percent (672 positions out of 1,260 officers).

The exact number of majors who will have more than 12 months of qualifying time could be determined only through a complete search of records, and that number would change continuously. But an estimate of one-third of the eligible majors can be used to illustrate the problem:

If one-third of the available positions are filled each year by branch qualified majors, only 131 new positions will be available (524 in four years). The success rate will then be 41.5 percent, which is probably a closer approximation of the current actual figure.

The concern at Infantry Branch is the long-range effect this will have on the infantry population. There is an accepted idea that an officer should serve as a major in a muddy boots position at battalion level to make lieutenant colonel. Although selection boards have shown that this is not an absolute requirement, a list of officers who were not selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel will include a disproportionate number of officers who did not serve with troops. But usually the latter group of officers has a much lower level of performance than those who were selected for these key positions.

This year's lieutenant colonel promotion list showed that infantrymen fared well compared to the rest of the Army. Because of the reduction in the number of key jobs available, however, future selection rates may continue to decline at a higher rate than other branches.

In short, not all majors (resident or non-resident MEL 4s) will get their branch qualification in TOE units. A

safe estimate is that about one-half will. Statistically, branch qualification does increase their chances for promotion to lieutenant colonel, but the overall strength of an officer's file is the key.

Our advice to all Infantry majors is that if it appears you will not be assigned as an S-3 or XO in a TOE infantry battalion or brigade, you should actively seek the same position in other units. Interview for positions in other types of battalions—support, special, TDA, or recruiting. You will increase your chances for promotion by doing so.

IOAC ATTENDANCE

Promotable first lieutenants assigned to units in Europe or Panama will attend the Infantry Officer Advanced Course (IOAC) when they return. All others will attend after they have completed between 42 and 48 months time-on-station.

Lieutenants who have served their initial tours of duty in Korea and then returned to the States can expect to spend at least 36 months in their second assignments before attending. We will work on a case-by-case basis, however, to move selected officers before 36 months if their commands concur in the decision.

We also send 5 to 10 Infantry officers to each Armor Officer Advanced Course (AOAC) class. Officers who want to attend AOAC should send a DA Form 4187 to Infantry Branch.

Officers in Year Group 1988 will not be slated to attend an officer advanced course until they have first been selected for retention by the CVI/RA (conditional voluntary indefinite/Regular Army) Retention Board or have been selected for promotion to captain.

Officers who are on orders to attend an advanced course but are deployed to Southwest Asia and cannot be released by their units should not worry. We will reschedule them to attend as soon as possible.

IOAC schedules for the rest of Fiscal Year 1991 and for FY 1992, along with FY 1992 AOAC schedules are shown here.

The POC for IOAC is CPT Bob Pricone.

FUNCTIONAL AREA DESIGNATION, YG 1986

The functional area (FA) designation process for officers in Year Group (YG) 1986 is scheduled to begin in June 1991. Letters will be mailed to individual officers at that time instructing them to complete special mark-sense forms indicating their preferences and to return them by September. After designation, all future assignment actions and professional development plans will take into account an officer's FA.

If you are in this year group, you are encouraged to read DA Pamphlet 600-3, Commissioned Officer Profes-

IOAC SCHEDULE		
CLASS NO.	START DATE	END DATE
91-4	29 Jul 91	19 Dec 91
91-5	26 Aug 91	31 Jan 92
92-1	03 Nov 91	09 Apr 92
92-2	26 Jan 92	16 Jun 92
92-3	22 Mar 92	11 Aug 92
92-4	26 Jul 92	17 Dec 92
92-5	23 Aug 92	29 Jan 93
AOAC SCHEDULE		
CLASS NO.	START DATE	END DATE
92-1	20 Oct 91	27 Mar 92
92-2	05 Jan 92	27 May 92
92-3	05 Apr 92	25 Aug 92
92-4	07 Jun 92	28 Oct 92

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sional Development and Utilization, in the Officer Ranks Personnel Update and to talk with your chain of command concerning your functional area options.

Since you could spend a good portion of your career in that functional area, you should select one that interests you, one that you think you will do well in, and one that you qualify for. Some areas require long training periods and often opportunities for civil schooling. On the other hand, some could compete with other professional development needs that would prepare you for possible battalion command.

To help in the designation process, make sure your college transcripts for both undergraduate and graduate degrees are in your file at Infantry Branch.

The actual designation process will take place during October and November 1991, and the results should be published in December. The needs of the Army, civilian education, military schooling, assignment experience, manner of performance, and individual preferences will all be considered during the process.

BRANCH DETAIL PROGRAM

Year Group 1990 branch detail lieutenants will spend only two years in the Infantry. The two-year period begins on the day they report for the Infantry Officer Basic Course (IOBC). At the completion of the two-year detail, they should be reassigned locally to their basic branches.

The only exceptions to the two-year branch detail are Military Intelligence and Adjutant General Corps officers. They will continue to spend four years in their Infantry details.

UNIT COIN COLLECTION

Infantry Branch is starting a collection of battalion, regimental, and division

coins. If you would like to donate one, we would greatly appreciate it.

If there is a particular story behind the coin, please include it for historical purposes. Unfortunately, coins cannot be traded for good assignments.

ARPERCEN TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) at St. Louis has issued new telephone numbers for reserve component officers to use in calling their career management branches.

The toll-free numbers are: (800) 552-3229 for lieutenants; (800) 325-4882 for captains; and (800) 245-8465 for field-grade officers.

The commercial numbers are: (314)

538-3813 for lieutenants; (314) 538-3814 for captains; and (314) 538-3815 for field-grade officers.

The DSN numbers are: 892-3813 for lieutenants; 892-3814 for captains; and 892-3815 for field-grade officers.

BLACK SHOULDER MARKS

Black shoulder marks for officers' uniforms will be available in military clothing sales stores effective 1 October 1991 and will be authorized for wear as optional items.

After a one-year phase-in period, these marks will become mandatory on 1 October 1992. Until that date, officers may continue wearing the green shoulder marks.

INFANTRY BRANCH POINTS OF CONTACT

ASSIGNMENT AREA	NAME	TELEPHONE (DSN)*
Branch Chief	LTC Young	221-0445
Branch XO	MAJ Roberts	221-5510
Lieutenant Colonels Team	MAJ Dickman MAJ McCarthy Mrs. Hairston Ms. K. Harley	221-5510
Majors Team	MAJ Schook MAJ Koehler Mrs. P. Harley	221-5511
Captains Team	CPT McNulty CPT Armstrong CPT Smarr Ms. Emerson	221-5520
IOAC/Lieutenants Team	MAJ Morehouse CPT Pricone Mrs. Parham Mrs. Hughes Ms. Babylon	221-5514/ 221-0207
Colonels Assignment Officer	MAJ Hawrylak	221-7866

Mailing address: Commander, PERSCOM
ATTN: TAPC-OPE-I
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0414

*For commercial calls, use area code 703 and prefix 325 instead of 221.